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speculative industry...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and you're underwriting plants that have failed several times already.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr, or I'm sorry, Senator Chambers. Senator Stuhr, your light is next. I apologize. I'm sorry about that. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I stand in opposition to the bracket bill (sic, motion). Yes, I agree with someone that said this is an American problem. It isn't just a Nebraska problem. For one thing, I cannot understand why we in the United States don't strive to be energy independent. Senator Chambers repeatedly says the ethanol industry is highly subsidized. Well, let me tell you the petroleum industry is also highly subsidized. And I believe that ethanol is very good for the state of Nebraska. It's good for our economy. It's good for our environment. And we can strive to be energy independent. I have an article that I found in the Farm Journal, April 2001 edition that talks about the energy policy on the national level. Staggering energy prices have improved long-term prospects for home-grown fuel. Our president said, let me reiterate my commitment to value-added processing to making sure that ethanol is an integral part of the gasoline mixes in the United States. Senate democratic leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, and Senate Ag Committee Chairman, Richard Lugar, are backing a measure that would require a percentage of the total supply to be renewable fuel. Daschle says such a standard could triple demand for ethanol by 2010, and I think that that's what we're striving to do with LB 536 is make Nebraska ready. This is a rural economic development bill, and I really shouldn't say just rural, because it does a lot for the state of Nebraska. I'll just repeat some of those statistics that maybe were mentioned earlier that Nebraska's ethanol industry employs more than 1,000 people and another 4,700 jobs have been generated in the industry related service sector. The ethanol industry has made a capital investment of nearly \$1 billion in Nebraska. Right now we know